

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

on the

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**


and

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

of the

# **Halstead Rural District**

**For the Year 1953**



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PUBLIC HEALTH  
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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
of the  
Halstead Rural District

For the Year 1953

by

Dr. J. S. RANSON  
M.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

and

HAROLD NIELD  
A.M.S.E., M.R.SAN.E., M.S.T.A.  
Sanitary Officer

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W. H. ROOT  
HALSTEAD

# Halstead Rural District Council

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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THE REV. E. POWELL (Chairman)  
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Report on the  
**PUBLIC HEALTH & SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**  
**OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT**  
for the year 1953

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By DR. J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE,  
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

This report laid out on the usual lines shows the year 1953 to have been one of good health.

Beyond the somewhat extensive outbreak of measles, very few cases of infectious disease were notified.

During the year immunisation of infants against whooping cough was started at the various Child Welfare Centres and already it is apparent that the protection this afforded against this disease is of a high order.

**Water Supplies.**

The provision of the first part of the scheme for piped water supplies being now in hand it is anticipated that sanction for proceeding with the second stage will be granted.

**Sewerage.**

Schemes for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal are being prepared for the Parishes of Gosfield, Castle Hedingham, Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham (renewal and extensions) and Bures Hamlet. It is realised that in other Parishes the installation of the piped water supply will necessitate the preparation of similar schemes.

**Housing.**

Recently two Circulars from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been received which should to some extent, alter the housing policy of the future.

The first regarding Slum Clearance withdraws advice previously given to Councils regarding concentrating on building new houses in preference to reconstruction of old houses.

It states that the Government's Policy is that Local Authorities should now take up again, as a matter of urgency, the campaign of slum clearance and should, for this purpose, review the housing conditions of their areas and submit proposals of measures to be taken as quickly as possible. The new Housing Bill will give guidance on matters to be taken into consideration in determining whether a house is, or is not, unfit for human habitation and the procedure for making clearance orders and the compulsory purchase orders of land in or surrounded by, or adjoining

a Clearance Area. Local Authorities will be empowered to defer the demolition of unfit houses in certain circumstances, if satisfied that the houses are, or can be made, capable of providing accommodation of a standard adequate for the time being.

The second Circular concerns grants for the improvement or conversion of housing accommodation. In it the Minister reminds Councils that the Government desires to give every possible encouragement to Local Authorities and private owners who wish to modernise and make better use of existing houses by improvements or conversions.

Works of improvement or conversion need no longer be reckoned as a part of the Local Authority's approved programme of new house-building.

In future Local Authorities may themselves give approval to applications for grant submitted to them by private owners and it is now no longer necessary to refer such applications to the Ministry's Regional Officer.

The Minister has decided that it would be helpful to Local Authorities, owners and all concerned, if the requirements for such work were revised to exclude or modify those which it would be unreasonable to make an absolute condition of grant.

The revised requirements are:—

The dwelling must after improvement or conversion:—

- (i) be in a good state of repair and substantially free from damp;
- (ii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated;
- (iii) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on inside the dwelling;
- (iv) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes;
- (v) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet;
- (vi) have a fixed bath (or shower) preferably in a separate room;
- (vii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water;
- (viii) have a proper drainage system;
- (ix) be provided in each room with adequate points for gas or electric fittings (where reasonably available);
- (x) be provided with adequate facilities for heating;
- (xi) have satisfactory facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food;
- (xii) have proper provision for the storage of fuel (where required).

The Circular points out, that in relation to an application for grant from a private owner his financial resources are wholly irrelevant to the question whether or not an improvement grant should be made.

In considering a scheme for improvement or conversion submitted for grant, the Minister thinks there is only one question which may be properly asked, namely, whether it will produce a satisfactory modernised dwelling or dwellings complying with the statutory conditions and the specified requirements.

The Minister has decided to reduce the minimum figure cost from £150 to £100 but the maximum grant will remain at the figure of £400. The Minister may, however, on application, waive the limit for an individual scheme.

Reasonable expenditure on professional fees of Architects, Surveyors and Engineers may, from now on, be taken into account for all purposes.

These two Circulars clearly point out the path to the solving of the housing problem. With reference to Slum Clearance, those Authorities that have completed a housing survey must be aware of its extent. Those that have had no proper survey cannot be so without making one. Decisions must be come to as to which areas must be dealt with as Clearance Areas and which houses must be dealt with individually. The Local Authority must also decide which sites will be acquired and used for redevelopment or rentation as open spaces.

As directed in the Circular, some houses marked for ultimate demolition must be made reasonably good for habitation for a specified number of years.

With regard to the Circular on grants for improvements and conversions, encouragement or even some form of persuasion may to some extent alleviate the question of slum clearance and help to satisfy the demand for houses having up to date amenities.

It seems probable that owner-occupiers may be readily willing to apply for the grants. Employers of agricultural workers find that the offer of the tenancy of a modernised house greatly facilitates their chance of obtaining suitable employees. Therefore, they too may welcome the assistance now offered. Owners of property to let may on the other hand find the offer less attractive except perhaps in Districts where new public services are being provided with forthcoming inducements to connect.

Improvement and conversions will vary from perhaps the converting of an extra bedroom into a bathroom to most extensive rebuilding and extentions. Beyond all this work there must still remain many existing small houses that will not come into Slum Clearance areas and will not be the subjects of applications for improvement grants. These in the future will be the only houses that can be let at low rents. They may not have such amenities as bathrooms and water laid on inside the house, but provided that their structure is sound and is maintained in a sound condition, such houses, chiefly owing to their low rents, have still a useful part to play as dwellings.

In conclusion it must be realised that it is now the Government's intention that Local Authorities shall as soon as possible submit proposals for dealing with all of the bad house property in their Districts.

My thanks are again due to members of the Council and their staff for their help and consideration in my work.

I have the honour to be,

Your sincere servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "J. B. Ranson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, trailing flourish at the end.

Medical Officer of Health.

## 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

		Halstead R.D.C.	England and Wales
Area (in acres)	...	76,693	
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	17,047	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)			
according to the Rate Books	...	5,545	
Rateable Value (at 1.4.53)	£63,269	(at 1.4.54) £63,398	
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£254 17 1	
<hr/>			
		Total	Male
Live Births	Legitimate:—	218	113
	Illegitimate:—	10	4
Still Births		5	3
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...		13.8
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and stillbirths)			21.4
<hr/>			
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate)	...	232	
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	...	13.5	11.4
(Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.74)	...	11.6	
Death of infants under one year of age	...	7	
Death rate of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births)		30.7	26.8
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	32.4	
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil	

### Deaths at Various Age Groups

(Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No of Deaths Transferred
Under one year ... ..	1	6
1 and under 2 years ... ..	1	—
2 and under 5 years ... ..	1	—
5 and under 15 years ... ..	—	3
15 and under 25 years ... ..	1	2
25 and under 35 years ... ..	2	1
35 and under 45 years ... ..	3	1
45 and under 55 years ... ..	11	5
55 and under 65 years ... ..	12	9
65 and under 75 years ... ..	29	22
75 years and upwards ... ..	74	47
Totals ... ..	135	96



## DEATHS FROM VARIOUS CAUSES

(Registrar General's Figures)

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ... ..	3	3
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory) ... ..	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
Influenza ... ..	—	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	1	—
Cancer ... ..	25	11
Leukaemia ... ..	1	—
Diabetes ... ..	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	16	27
Coronary disease ... ..	20	10
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	3	1
Other heart disease ... ..	20	21
Other circulatory disease ... ..	3	3
Pneumonia ... ..	6	2
Bronchitis ... ..	5	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—
Gastritis and diarrhoea ... ..	—	—
Nephritis ... ..	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—
Congenital malformation ... ..	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	15	11
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	2	—
All other accidents ... ..	2	—
Suicide ... ..	—	—
Homicide ... ..	—	—
Totals ... ..	132	100

## 2. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### Infectious Disease—Cases Notified:

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Dead
Infectious Jaundice ... ..	2	—	—
Measles ... ..	329	3	—
Pneumonia ... ..	7	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	2	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	4	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	35	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	—	—
Totals ... ..	380	5	—

# Tuberculosis—Cases Notified:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5 and under 10 years	—	—	—	—
10 and under 15 years	—	—	1	—
15 and under 20 years	—	1	—	—
20 and under 25 years	—	2	—	—
25 and under 35 years	2	—	—	—
35 and under 45 years	—	—	—	—
45 and under 55 years	1	2	—	—
55 and under 65 years	1	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	4	6	1	—

## Deaths from Tuberculosis:

Pulmonary	Male	4
	Female	3
Non-Pulmonary	Male	1
	Female	1
Total		9

Food Poisoning Notifications 1

Report on the  
**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**  
**OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT**  
for the year 1953

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By HAROLD NIELD, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Officer

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.  
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit this Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District and the work of the Sanitary Department for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

The report is brief and consists mainly of statistics required by the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951, and the Ministry of Health.

**1. STAFF.**

Sanitary Officer	HAROLD NIELD, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Incorporated Sanitary Engineer.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	WILLIAM L. C. PROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. MONTAGUE E. ROUSELL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Clerk Typist	MISS MARY A. BECKWITH
General Assistant	NEVILLE E. CUTTS (from 15.4.53.)

## 2. FOOD.

### (a) General.

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by the Sanitary Department regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	9	15
Egg Packing & Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	2	6
Fish Fryers	2	—
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	2
General Provision Shops	76	48
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	45	45
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	12	76
Meat Shops	14	97
Public Houses and Inns	73	55
Restaurants and Cafes	8	19
Slaughterhouses	9	74
Street Vendors	—	12
Miscellaneous	—	35
Totals	251	484

Details of unsatisfactory conditions found at food premises fully surveyed were:

Food Premises		Structural Condition & Repair	Decorations or Cleanliness	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation
Type	No.									
Bakehouses	9	4	6	4	2	4	6	2	3	2
Fish Fryers	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	12	4	5	1	8	10	8	2	3	1
Meat Shops	14	4	4	3	7	10	10	4	4	2
Restaurants and Cafes	8	1	—	1	—	—	4	1	2	3
TOTALS	45	14	16	9	17	24	28	9	13	8

Food premises fully surveyed	45
Food poisoning investigations	8
Informal notices served	13
Food preparing premises improved	14
Food vehicles improved	3

The co-operation of the Ministry of Food Local Executive Officer in notifying to the Sanitary Department details of licences issued by him under the "Self-Suppliers Pigs Scheme," and details of applications for Catering Licences, was again appreciated. This facilitated the work of the Sanitary Department in examining pigs slaughtered locally, and ensured that premises intended for use as catering establishments or food shops complied with sanitary requirements.

#### (b) Unsound Food.

No cases of unsound food being exposed for sale were found, and it was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated very satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	833 lbs.
Pork	372 lbs.
Cake Flour Mixture	31 lbs.
Fish	2 lbs.
Tinned Ham	12 lbs.
Tinned Foods (Miscellaneous)	39 lbs.
Miscellaneous Foods	20 lbs.
Total	1,309 lbs.

#### (c) Post-mortem Inspection of Animals.

Details of post-mortem inspection of animals were:—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Pigs
No. Killed (Estimated) ...	Nil	Nil	1	3	5	152
No. Inspected ...	Nil	Nil	1	2	5	141
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	20
(c) Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	15.6
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Percentage of number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(d) **Milk and Dairies.**

	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Registered Dairy Premises ... ..	3	31
Registered Distributors of Milk ... ..	5	25
Licensed Dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	5	22
Licensed Dealers of Pasteurised Milk ... ..	3	20
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	7	13
Licensed Dealers with Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk ... ..	8	10
Totals ... ..	31	121

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ... ..	12	12	—
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	11	9	2
Accredited ... ..	—	—	—
Pasteurised ... ..	18	18	—
Undesignated ... ..	11	11	—
Totals ... ..	52	50	2

The two unsatisfactory samples were followed up, and subsequent samples taken were satisfactory.

(e) **Ice Cream.**

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	32	Excellent	10
II	4	Satisfactory	25
III	1	Fair	4
IV	2	Unsatisfactory	—
Total	39		Total 39

Bacteriological Classification	No. of "Iced Lolly" Samples
Excellent	2
Satisfactory	8
Fair	6
Unsatisfactory	1
Total	17

### 3. WATER.

None of the existing supplies were treated by chlorination or softening, although chlorinating apparatus was available for use as necessary at the Council's Earls Colne Undertaking.

As a routine procedure samples of the Castle Hedingham and Earls Colne mains water supplies were submitted for laboratory examination monthly, and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly.

During the year the following work was carried out by the Sanitary Department:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	...	...	363
(b) Premises connected to water mains following informal action	...	...	46
(c) Wells improved following informal action	...	...	7
(d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination	Details of these are given in the following table.	...	86

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	33	23	10
Private Water Mains	42	32	10
Public Wells, etc.	4	1	3
Private Wells, etc.	7	6	1
Totals	86	62	24

The unsatisfactory samples from public and private water mains were investigated and sources of contamination determined. Remedial action taken resulted in the supplies being made satisfactory.

Constructional work on the Council's Comprehensive District Water Scheme commenced on 26th May, 1953.

### 4. HOUSING

#### (a) General

The numbers of dwellings which during the past five years have been either repaired to a satisfactory standard or reconditioned and modernised up to a standard comparable with new Council Houses were:—

Year	Houses Reconditioned or Repaired	Houses fully Reconditioned	New Council Houses Erected	Houses Demolished
1949	286	54	61	5
1950	219	49	54	12
1951	234	36	53	13
1952	215	29	33	15
1953	238	38	76	15
Totals	1162	206	277	60

**(b) Housing Inspections.**

(1) Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	1,128
(2) Houses fully surveyed and recorded ...	53
(3) Houses cursorily surveyed and recorded	2,316
(4) Investigations of Applications for Council house tenancies	5
(5) Inspections regarding re-conditioning ... ..	72
(6) Inspections regarding overcrowding ... ..	34

**(c) Housing Notices.**

(1) Informal Notices served requiring remedy of disrepair and sanitary defects ... ..	57
(2) Statutory Notices served under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	4
(3) Statutory Notices served under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring remedy of housing disrepair ...	Nil
(4) Certificates as to state of repair granted (Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1933). ... ..	1

Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses and their co-operation was appreciated.

**(d) Unfit Houses—Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.**

(1) Houses Officially Represented under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	34
(2) Demolition Orders made ... ..	11
(3) Undertakings accepted (a) to repair or recondition ...	3
(b) not to use for human habitation	12
(4) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (December, 1953) ... ..	55
(5) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec., 1953)	
(a) to make fit for human habitation	20
(b) not to use for human habitation	42

**(e) Housing Improvements.**

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by the Sanitary Department ... ..	230
(2) Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	2
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	4
(4) Houses repaired or reconditioned following Statutory undertaking under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ...	2
(5) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	15



(f) **Housing Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949**

Applications for Improvement Grants	7
Improvement Grants Recommended by Council	3
Improvement Grants Approved by Ministry of Housing and Local Government	1
Improvement Grants awaiting Ministry decision	2
Loans Made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses	Nil

(g) **Housing Overcrowding.**

Overcrowded houses existing December, 1952	16
Overcrowded houses found during 1953	4
Overcrowded houses relieved 1953	7
Overcrowded houses existing December, 1953 (Including 4 Council houses)	13

(h) **Moveable Dwellings.**

Licensed Camping Grounds (for 58 trailer caravans)	1
Inspections of Camping Grounds	18
Licensed Movable Dwellings	18
Inspections of Movable Dwellings	53
Informal Notices served re Movable Dwellings	3

Every caravan on the licensed camping ground is provided with piped mains water supply and main drainage to a camp disposal plant.

## 5. WORKPLACES

(a) **Inspections and Notices**

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	1	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	35	6	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	68	36	7	Nil

Certificates of Means of Escape in case of fire granted Nil

## (b) Defects found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H M. Inspector	Referred By H M Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total: ...	9	7	—	—	—

## (c) Out-Workers

Nature of Outwork	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel						
—Making, etc., ...	3	—	—	—	—	—

## (d) Miscellaneous

Premises	No. in district	Inspections
Places of Entertainment ...	28	7
Shops ...	105	261
Workplaces ...	10	2
Schools ...	18	1

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ... Nil

## 6. WASTE MATTERS.

### (a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Of the 39 Parishes in the District seven (Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Foxearth, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne), have public sewers, and four (Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and part of White Colne) public sewage disposal works.

Schemes for the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Ridgewell, Sible Hedingham, and a joint scheme for the Parish of Bures Hamlet with Bures St. Mary (Melford Rural District Council) have been prepared, and a scheme for Colne Engaine is in course of preparation by the Consulting Engineers. The following Parishes have been placed in order of priority as being in need of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future:—Greenstead Green (Halstead Rural), Foxearth, Belchamp St. Paul, Wickham St. Paul, Pebmarsh and Toppesfield. Also in need of such schemes:—Ashen, Birdbrook, Great Maplestead, Gestingthorpe, Helions Bumpstead and Sturmer. Extensions to the existing schemes are needed at Earls Colne, Steeple Bumpstead and White Colne.

No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal or important additions to existing works were carried out during the year.

Twenty-three inspections were made by the Sanitary Department of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

### (b) Drainage.

There is no scheme for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), householders being left to make their own arrangements with private contractors.

Details of drainage to properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties drained to:			Properties without drainage
	Sewers or Highway Drains	Sewage tanks or Cesspools	Ditches etc.	
6066 (100%)	1710 (28.3%)	1714 (28.2%)	1362 (22.4%)	1280 (21.1%)

#### (i) Drainage Duties.

1. Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	111
2. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	117
3. Drainage inspections	1033
4. Inspection of ditches	104
5. Drainage smoke tests	173
6. Informal notices served	24

(ii) Drainage Improvements.

As a result of informal action by the Sanitary Department, the following improvements were effected:—

1. Premises drained to public sewers	37
2. Premises drained to septic tanks	54
3. Drains reconstructed	31
4. Drains cleansed	6
5. Ditches cleansed	13

(c) Sanitary Fittings

There is a great need in the District for the conversion of privy and earth closets into water closets, and for the provision of sinks and baths to dwellings.

Details of sanitary fittings of properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties with :					
	Sanitary Conveniences				Sinks	Baths
	W.C's.	E.C's.	Privies	None		
6066	2432	3482	43	109	4601	1940
(100%)	(40.1%)	(57.4%)	(.7%)	(1.8%)	(75.8%)	(31.9%)

During the year 528 inspections regarding sanitary conveniences were carried out and 44 informal notices served.

As a result of informal action by the Sanitary Department the following improvements were effected:—

1. Privy conversions	30
2. Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	12
3. New sanitary conveniences provided	66
4. Sinks provided	73
5. Baths provided	59

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of the Council's Surveyor. The Council possessed two refuse collecting vehicles and undertook the removal of house refuse at fortnightly intervals in the Parishes of Castle Hedingham, Earls Colne, Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and contracted for the removal of night soil and refuse in the Parish of Bures Hamlet. In the remaining Parishes the Council removed tins and salvage at approximately monthly intervals. Refuse and tins were disposed of on refuse dumps at Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and White Colne.

Thirteen inspections of refuse tips, and 34 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made.

As a result of action by the Sanitary Department 19 accumulations of refuse were removed.

## 7 PESTS

The District continued to be comparatively free from vermin infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. A total of 20 inspections were made by the Sanitary Department in connection with vermin, and 26 premises were disinfected.

There was also no unduly high incidence of rat and mice infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers and refuse dumps were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year were:—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
I. Properties in District	16	5545	447	356	6364
II. Properties inspected during 1953 as a result (a) of notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise	(a) Nil (b) 2 (c) 14	31 59 371	3 12 80	6 45 234	40 118 699
III. Properties found infested by rats.	Major 1 Minor 1	5 48	3 8	13 27	22 84
IV. Properties found seriously infested by mice.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
V. Infested properties treated.	2	36	Nil	43	81
VI. Notices served.					
(1) Treatment.	Nil	40	9	14	63
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	3
VII. Cases in which default action was taken.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII. Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

IX. Number of "Block Control" schemes carried out Nil

## 8 MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by the Sanitary Department during the year:

(a) Plans deposited under Building Byelaws examined	111
(b) Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	2
(c) Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations	23
(d) Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act investigations	20
(e) Notifiable disease investigations	11
(f) Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases	13
(g) Visits regarding miscellaneous sanitary matters	23
(h) Bathing pool water samples taken	4

During February, March and April the Council's Sanitary Inspectors carried out full time duty at Harwich in connection with flood damage relief work regarding food and water supplies, housing, drainage and general sanitation.

Certain provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952, were adopted by the Rural District Council during the year.

The following special reports were submitted to the Council by the Sanitary Officer during the year:—

1. Water Supplies in Tilbury-Ovington Road Area.
2. Rural Housing Survey.
3. Sewer Ditch, Countess Cross, Colne Engaine.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to members of the Public Health Committee for their help and support during the year, and to all officers of the Council for their willing co-operation. I also record my thanks to the members of my staff for their ready assistance and loyalty in carrying out our onerous duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,



Sanitary Officer



